

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/195,595	OISHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	A. Dexter Tugbang	3729	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 4/16/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-46.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 November 1998 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>7/9/04</u> 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lawrence E. Ashery on July 9, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-12 have been cancelled as being directed to an invention non-elected.

In Claim 14, line 3, between "for" and "conductivity" insert -- a--.

In Claim 16, line 3, delete "a" and insert -- said --.

In Claim 17, line 4, delete "a" and insert -- said --.

In Claim 18, line 3, delete "a" and insert -- said --.

In Claim 19, line 4, delete "a" and insert -- said --.

In Claim 21, line 7, delete "a" and insert -- said --.

In Claim 24, line 2, delete "the step of".

In Claim 24, line 2, delete "treatment" and insert -- the surface of the connecting area --.

In Claim 24, line 5, delete both occurrences of "the" and insert -- a --.

In Claim 25, line 2, delete "the step of".

In Claim 25, line 2, delete "treatment" and insert -- the surface of the connecting area--.

In Claim 29, line 3, delete "the".

In Claim 29, line 3, delete "treatment" and insert -- the surface of the connecting area--.

In Claim 38, line 2, delete "the".

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In Claim 38, line 2, delete "treatment" and insert -- the surface of the connecting area--.

In Claim 40, line 3, delete "the".

In Claim 40, line 3, "treatment" and insert -- the surface of the connecting area--.

In Claim 41, line 2, delete "having received said".

In Claim 41, line 2, delete "treatment" and insert -- the surface of the connecting area--.

In Claim 46, line 2, after "gas" insert a comma -- , --.

2. Applicant's arguments, see amendment (page 11, 3rd paragraph), filed on April 16, 2004, with respect to 112, 2nd paragraph rejection on Claim 14, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of Claim 14, as well as the claims dependent from Claim 14 thereof, has been withdrawn. Upon further consideration by the examiner in reviewing the specification (at pages 1 and 5), as well as the document provided by the applicant's from Yokohama Rubber, one of ordinary skill in the art is now provided with a better understanding of the phrase of "electroconductive rubber piece" as this phrase is now considered to be clear and definite.

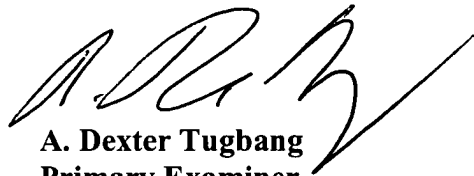
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 703-308-7599.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 703-308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



A. Dexter Tugbang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3729

July 9, 2004